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# COMMERCE

# NEWS

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ECONOMICS  
AND  
STATISTICS  
ADMINISTRATION

U.S. Census Bureau

This release contains sensitive economic  
data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday,  
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## **Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products**

### **February 2004**

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary February steel imports were **\$0.9 billion (1.8 million metric tons)**. This was a decrease of \$0.1 billion (0.3 million metric tons) from the preliminary January 2004 totals of \$1.0 billion (2.1 million metric tons).

The January to February change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected a decrease primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Japan, Russia, and Brazil.

The final statistics for January 2004 showed steel imports of 2.1 million metric tons, compared with 2.3 million metric tons for January 2003. The largest commodity decreases were in hot dipped galvanized sheets and strips, and hot rolled sheets. The largest country decreases were with India and Italy.

### **Notes:**

**The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.**

*Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: [www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/). On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.*

*The next release is April 27, 2004*